

REMARKS

Claims 21-60 presently appear in this case. In view of a previous restriction requirement and a subsequent election, claims 21-25 and 60 have been examined and claims 26-58 have been withdrawn from consideration, as being drawn to non-elected subject matter.

The examiner has now set forth a new species election requirement. In particular, the examiner contends that the present claims are directed to the following patentably distinct species:

(i) an antibody capable of binding to the amino acid sequence at amino acid coordinates 123-175 of SEQ 10 NO: 3 (SIV1),

(ii) an antibody capable of binding to the amino acid sequence at amino acid coordinates 58-110 of SEQ 10 NO: 4 (SIV2),

(iii) a small interfering RNA molecule, or

(iv) a ribozyme.

The examiner states that the species are independent or distinct because claims to the different species recite the mutually exclusive characteristics of such species. The examiner contends that the species are not obvious variants of each other based on the current record.

In reply, Applicants hereby elect species (i), an antibody capable of binding to the amino acid sequence at amino acid coordinates 123-175 of SEQ 10 NO: 3 (SIVAL), as the single elected species for examination on the merits. It is respectfully submitted that claims 21-25 and 60 are readable on the elected species. Please consider and examine additional species upon a determination that the elected species is free of the prior art.

Prompt consideration on the merits and allowance of all of the claims now present in the case are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
Attorneys for Applicant

By /jfw/
Jay F. Williams
Reg. No. 48,036

Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528
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